

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 26183 052105Z

21

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3813

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26183

LIMDIS

E.O. GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CB

SUBJECT: FRENCH POLICY CONCERNING CAMBODIA

REF: A) PARIS 25420 (NOTAL) B) STATE 194563

1. UK FIRST SECRETARY (RENWICK) INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE HAD LEARNED FROM QUAI CONTACTS THAT THERE HAD RECENTLY BEEN A MEETING TO DISCUSS TWO OPPOSING POSITIONS ON FRENCH POLICY TOWARDS CAMBODIA. FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN PEKING MANAC'H HAD PROPOSED THAT FRANCE SHOW THAT IT WAS LEANING A LITTLE MORE IN SIHANOUK'S DIRECTION BY REMOVING ITS DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION FROM PHNOM PENH LEAVING ONLY A CONSULAR PRESENCE. THIS POSITION WAS PROBABLY SUPPORTED B QUAI DIRECTOR FOR ASIA FROMENT-MEURICE. THEY ARGUED THAT THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LAST LONG, AND IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO RECOGNIZE SIHANOUK BEFORE HE RODE INTO PHMON PENH.

2. THE OTHER FACTION IN THE QUAI RECOMMENDED THAT NO FURTHER STEP BE TAKEN BEYOND THE DECISION NOT TO PROPOSE A NEW AMBASSADOR
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PAGE 02 PARIS 26183 052105Z

TO REPLACE DAUGE (REF A). DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA BOLLE AND

FORMER AMBASSADOR DAUGE PROBABLY ARE IN THIS FACTION. THEY REPORTEDLY ARGUE THAT IT FAR FROM CLEAR THAT THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT (OR SOME SIMILAR, NON-COMMUNIST SUCCESSOR) WILL BE SOON DRIVEN OUT BY SIHANOUK AND THE COMMUNISTS. THEY NOTE THAT IF A NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT REMAINS AND IT REFUSES CONSULAR RELATIONS IN RESPONSE TO A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THE GOF CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND FRENCH BUSINES INTERESTS -- AND THE 3,000 FRENCH CITIZENS IN GKR CONTROLLED AREAS -- WOULD BE WITHOUT PROTECTION.

3. RENWICK SAID THE UK ESTIMATE WAS THAT JOBERT WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT THE SECOND GROUP, SINCE HE WOULD PROBABLY CONSIDER THAT THE ARGUMENTS OF ABANDONING CAUTION IN FAVOR OF ALL-OUT SUPPORT OF SIHANOUK WERE NOT CONVINCING.

4. RENWICH SAID HIS SOUNDINGS INDICATED THAT JOBERT FAVORED ABSTAINING ON ANY VOTE CONCERNING CREDENTIALS FOR A CAMBODIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNGA, AND GOF WOULDPROBABLY PROPOSE THAT THE KHMER SORT OUT THIS PROBLEM THEMSELVES THROUGH INTERNAL NEGOTIATIONS. IF THE MANAC'H LINE WERE ADOPTED, THE GOF POSITION MIGHT CHANGE TO ONE OF SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK IN UN VOTE.

5. WE SHALL ATTEMPT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GOF INTERNAL DEBATE ON THE CAMBODIAN QUESTION: VARYING ACCOUNTS OF THE FRANCO/ CHINESE EXCHANGE CONCERNING CAMBODIA ARE ANOTHER INDICATION OF DEBATE WITHIN THE GOF ON CAMBODIAN POLICY.

IRWIN

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